$1,700,000 TO AID ALABAMA FARMS

Age-Herald-Birmingham, Ala.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 12—(AP) — Approximately $1,700,000 of the $67,000,000 authorized by Congress for new and supplemental rehabilitation loans to small farmers this year will be allocated to Alabama, says E. S. Morgan, regional director of the Farm Security Administration. 1-13-44

At present, about 10,000 Alabama farmers hold FSA loans, and 1943 repayments generally were prompt, the regional office said.

Farmers Using Credit Wisely, Rhea Declares

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.
June 3, 1944

Agricultural Loan Rally Brought To An End At Auburn

AUBURN, ALA., June 2.—American farmers have done a fine job in using agricultural credit to make needed adjustment in their farming operations and to increase production for war-time requirements, W. E. Rhea, land bank commissioner, Kansas City, told representatives of National Farm Loan Association and Production Credit Associations from Alabama here today.

The Farm Credit Administration is preparing to provide every possible assistance to returning soldiers who want to engage in farming, Mr. Rhea said.

R. L. Thompson, president of the Federal Land Bank of New Orleans, sounded a warning against rapidly rising land prices which he said was fraught with danger to agriculture. He asked that Farm Loan Association officials "hold the line against land inflation by making loans on normal values."

Charles O. Stokes, of Ozark, member of the Farm Credit Board, after reviewing the operating costs and financial status of the Land Bank, said he was "proud of the efficient management of the bank." He told how the farm credit system had brought low interest rates to farmers on both long term and short term loans.

President Thompson announced that beginning July 1 all land bank loans would bear interest at four per cent.

Other speakers on the program were Roy C. Heacock, of Uniontown, president of the Canebreak National Farm Loan Association, and Jack Moyer, secretary-treasurer of the Cullman National Loan Association. June 3, 1944

Jesse B. Hearin, president of the Production Credit Corporation of New Orleans, and Steve Voelker, secretary, at a separate meeting, told secretary-treasurers of production credit associations how to build membership through membership meetings, advisory committees, and establishment and management of field offices in all outlying counties.

A. W. Jones, State AAA administrator for Alabama, outlined the program in which national farm loan association and production credit association officials and farm co-op leaders will join with AAA administrators in helping farmers to make full use of the AAA program.

The two-day conference closed Friday night with addresses by H. D. Finlay, Jr., of the legal department, and W. K. McWilliams, acting general agent, New Orleans, who asked the Farm Credit Administration officials to work closely with all agricultural agencies in serving agriculture.

Farmers Told Costs Must Be Cut In Alabama

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.
6-2-44

Agricultural Economists Warn Credit Groups On Cotton And Peanut

AUBURN, ALA., June 1.—A farm economy based on cotton or peanuts is dangerously unstable, Prof. W. D. Salmon told more than 100 representatives of National Farm Loan and Production Credit Associations attending a short course held here today by the Agricultural Experiment Station in conjunction with a three-day Federal Land Bank conference on the campus of Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

In speaking on "After the War —What," Prof. Salmon said that technological developments and competition with other crops may seriously restrict the markets for cotton and peanuts. Prospects for these two crops after the war are very doubtful, and major adjustments in all probability will have to be made. Northern farmers have made only minor changes in their cropping program, whereas it has been necessary for the Southern farmers to make major adjustments. No State can continue to undergo such adjustments without seriously endangering its financial structure. Therefore, the farm economy of Alabama must be put on a more stable basis by a balanced crop and livestock production program, he concluded. 6-2-44

With a probable large carryover of cotton, with the extent of foreign consumption of American cotton doubtful, and with greatly increased competition from other fibers, the outlook for cotton production in the postwar years are anything but good, Dr. D. G. Stuckie, station agronomist, declared in discussing prospects of the South's principal cash crop.

Synthetics Gain Sway

"At the close of the war, we can expect a large carryover of cotton. To complicate the situation is the enormously increased production of competing fibers. For instance," he said, "rayon production has increased from an equivalent of 100,000 bales of cotton in 1921 to eight million bales in 1942, and consumption of this synthetic in the United States has jumped from 20 million pounds to 622 million pounds in the same period.

"In the future cotton in Alabama and the South will depend upon whether the world will be able to buy American cotton at a price that will permit profitable production. This condition in turn hinges upon what policies the United States Government will follow in respect to wages, taxes, tariffs, and export markets," Dr. Sturkie concluded.

In general, farmers who have continued to produce livestock and livestock products through periods of low and high prices know that buying and transporting feed by rail or truck is uneconomic. This is why livestock production centers in areas of feed production, and why there is a general relationship between the kinds of livestock produced and the kinds of feed grown within specific areas, Prof. B. F. Alvord, head of the station's department of agricultural economics, said in speaking on the relationship between feed and livestock-producing areas in the Southeast.

Beef Cattle Outlook

If Alabama is to increase its beef cattle production, it must be done with the understanding that it will be in competition with the country's major livestock-production areas, Prof. J. C. Grimes, head of the station's animal industry group, said in discussing livestock opportunities. Experiments here and at sub-stations indicate that it is possible for Alabama farmers to compete successfully with those of other sections, provided they improve their pastures and increase the yield of field crops.

A decline in the number of milk cows in Alabama, similar to that following previous wars, is likely to follow World War II, unless milk production costs are lowered to maintain margin of profit, Dr. W. E. Sewell, animal husbandman of the station declared. Experiments by the Agricultural Experiment Station show that milk production costs can be cheapened to a marked extent by the use of pasture, forage, and hay crops. A system of producing process milk at the Tennessee Valley substation, last year yielded an income of $93.02 a cow above operating costs. Similarly, a grade A system at the Black Belt substation produced a net income last year of $114.27 a cow, or $24.19 an acre, he explained.

In discussing the opportunities for hog production in Alabama, Prof. W. T. Williamson, station agronomist, said that profitable production was almost in direct proportion to the possible acre yield of corn, peanuts, and hog grazing crops. The Agricultural Experiment Station has found that, with proper management, lands which ordinarily produce from 12 to 15 bushels of corn or 600 to 800 pounds of peanuts an acre may be made to produce 30 to 40 bushels of corn or 1,800 to 2,000 pounds of peanuts. With such management, gross hog sales can slightly exceed cotton sales under the crop control program, he pointed out.

Permanent Pastures

It is fundamental that permanent pastures in Alabama should include a Spring clover, Prof. E. L. Mayton, associate agronomist of the station, said in speaking on pastures. Spring clovers give earlier grazing than grasses or lespedeza, and they also furnish nitrogen, which increases the production of Summer grass. Results of pasture experiments in nearly every section of the State definitely show that lime, phosphate, and potash are necessary for the establishment and maintenance of clovers in a pasture sod, he said.

Education, time, constructive effort, planning, and proper financing are needed to bring forests back to good stands of desirable species, Prof. L. M. Ware, head of the department of horticulture and forestry, told association representatives. On well-stocked stands of good species, timber growth in the South exceeds that of almost any other section. Yet, the practices of cutting out trees of the better species, burning, and destructive cutting have resulted in poorly-stocked stands of inferior timber, he added.

In the afternoon the representatives made a tour of the Experiment Station here, where they were shown the results of experimental work with wood pulp production; forest fire damage and fire control; establishment and management of bottom land pasture; third-year grazing of sericea; first-year production of Caley peas on sandy soil; and a farm-size management unit.

The Friday and Saturday programs will deal with the program and work of the National Farm Loan and Production Credit Associations.

1-1944

General

Loans For Tennessee Farmers Announced By Memphis Federal Agency

Daily World - Atlanta, Ga.
3-1-44

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—Mr. E. S. Beasley, State Supervisor for the Emergency Crop and Feed Loan Office, stated that farmers of Tennessee are now applying for loans to finance the production of their 1944 crops. Applications for loans are now being written in the county seats of each county and anyone in need of financial assistance should contact the county agent for information as to where applications are being written and the name of the field supervisor serving that district. He stated that, in addition to financing the production of regular crops such as cotton and corn, loans were also being made for and that special emphasis is being placed on the production of those crops declared essential and so vitally needed this year in the war effort. Plans for 1944 call for increased production of many food crops. The production goals of these crops, which can be successfully planted and grown in Tennessee should be met and the need for funds necessary for their production will be given special consideration with the view that credit will be extended, where needed, so that every farm family will have an opportunity to make its maximum contributions to the Food Production Program. Emergency Crop and Feed Loans are available to farmers, either owners or tenants, who own or can make arrangements for land to farm, who own or have the use of necessary workstock and equipment with which to farm, and who can give as security a first lien on the crops to be financed. Loans are also available for the purchase of production of feed for livestock to be fed for the market, or for breeding animals with the increase to be marketed and, as security, a first lein is required on such livestock. These loans will be made to farmers whose cash requirements are relatively small and who are unable to obtain from other sources, including local banks and Production Credit Associations, loans in an amount sufficient to meet their needs. Mr. Beasley emphasized that these loans are not restricted to applicants but are available to all farmers who can establish eligibility, according to the terms of the loan regulations and authorizing act.

3-1-44

Negro Farmers Among First Members of Production Credit Association

Tribune - Savannah, Ga.
1-13-44

Since their organization ten years ago, production credit associations have made 2,182,000 loans for a total of more than three million dollars to white and colored farmers, according to a report issued by the Farm Credit Administration.

Negro farmers have been members of production credit associations since their organization in 1933. During this ten year period individual Negro borrowers have obtained annual loans up to $11,000. Last year in one Farm Credit Administration district comprising four southern states, the production credit associations made loans to colored farmers totaling $2,000,000.

In the Louisville district of the Farm Credit Administration, the first credit association loan was made to a Negro farmer. This farmer, L. H. Langford of Putnam county, Tennessee, borrowed $100 thru the Cookeville Production Credit Association. With it he bought seed oats and lespedeza and some wire fencing.

Production credit asocition secretary treasurers frequently comment on the good loan repayment of Negro borrowers throughout the past ten years of cooperative short-term credit service to farmers. They cite many examples showing the effort that Negro farmers will put forth to repay their loans.

As an example from the Athens, Georgia, Production Credit Association is a colored farmer who borrowed $100 last spring. Since that time his wife died, a daughter has died, lightning struct his cotton in three different places and he has lost one of his mules. In the face of all of these misfortunes, this farmer member has paid his loan in full.

1-13-44

Race Farmers Have Good Records in Paying Loans

Journal & Guide - Norfolk, Va.
1-15-44

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Since their organization ten years ago, production credit associations have made 2,182,000 loans for a total of more than three billion dollars to white and colored farmers, according to a report issued by the Farm Credit Administration.

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1-15-44

Farm Credit Administration records show that ten years ago, farmers owned no part of the capital stock of their associations. But today, farmer-members own more than $26,000,000 of the capital stock of production credit associations. In addition, their organizations have built up reserves in excess of $27,000,000.